FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 FEBRUARY 1984

23 February Middle East & South Asia Review

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces reached the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and gained "full control" of a "major part" of the Baghdad-Basra highway south of Al-'Amarah, thereby disrupting an important link between the Iraqi III Corps in the south and the IV Corps in the north, Tehran radio and IRNA announced on 23 February. In the "special Khybar operations" launched along several axes in the Basra and Al-'Amarah Provinces in southern Iraq, Iranian troops crossed the marshy region east of the strategic Baghdad-Basra highway and "liberated" a number of villages in Basra Province, the radio reported. One Iraqi plane was shot down by Iranian air defense units while "very heavy" fighting continues along the more than 90-km front, Tehran radio added. According to IRNA, Iranian forces have now penetrated 40 km inside Iraqi territory and maintain "full control" over the areas captured along the way.

The Iraqi Armed Forces General Command, in a communique carried by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio on 23 February, announced Iraq's defeat of the Iranian attack in territory east of Basra. The "aggressors' bodies have been dismembered" and their troop concentrations "transformed into bodies littering the pure soil of Basra," the communique said. An earlier Iraqi communique, broadcast by Baghdad radio, congratulated the III Army Corps for confronting this attack and "destroying the ignominious forces of aggression." A military spokesman, in remarks cited by Voice of the Masses, likewise announced that attacking Iranian forces were "wiped off the face of the earth." An Iraqi military commander also "ridiculed" Iran's claim that its forces had reached the Tigris and Euphrates and had taken control of the Basra-Baghdad highway. Such "hallucinations" are the result of the "stupifying blow" Iran sustained during its "abortive" offensive against Iraq, the commander charged.

Earlier, in a 22 February military communique broadcast by Tehran radio, Iran announced that the Val-Fajr VI operations had succeeded in "liberating" more than 100 square km and capturing the Tib-Badrah supply route in Iraq, killing a "large group" of Iraqi forces and destroying Iraq's 77th Brigade in the process. Losses inflicted on the IV Corps are "very extensive" and "hundreds" of dead Iraqi soldiers "litter a large area" in the Chilat region, according to IRNA. However, the commander of the Iraqi IV Army Corps, in a statement to INA, said that his forces are continuing to inflict "heavy losses" on Iranian troops in the Chilat sector.

Lebanon

Military Situation — Israeli planes raided "terrorist" targets in the Bhamdun area on 23 February, strafing buildings and artillery positions, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement carried by ITIM. He said all Israeli planes returned safely to base. A related report by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted that the Israeli planes ejected heat balloons to deflect SAM's. Radio Free Lebanon and Voice of Lebanon radio had earlier reported that Israeli aircraft bombed Palestinian positions in the Al-Biqa' valley the previous day, but monitored Israeli media did not mention any raid on 22 February.

Further south, the IDF intervened to halt Druze shelling of Christian villages near the Al-Awwali River, Jerusalem radio reported. Fatah dissident military leader Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha told a press conference in Shtawrah that his movement has "neither the ambition nor the intention to return with weapons to Beirut," according to AFP.

Saudi Mediation — Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri briefed President Amin al-Jumayyil on the latest proposals from Damascus on 22 February, Beirut radio reported. Earlier, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held talks with Al-Hariri and Saudi Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, according to Damascus radio. Radio Monte Carlo spoke of "optimism" about the results of the Syrian-Saudi talks, asserting that President Hafiz al-Asad and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah defined "certain positions and frameworks" and citing Prince Bandar's remark that the mediation efforts are taking a "positive course." Prince Bandar also affirmed that Syria and Saudi Arabia have prepared "new proposals" to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon, AFP reported.

Syrian Comment — Pointing to the "contradictions" in U.S. policy on Lebanon, Damascus radio said that while President Reagan earlier issued "threats and warnings" to Syria, the U.S. Administration is now sending Syria messages "without threats and warnings" which urge the latter to help the United States leave Lebanon "without losing face." Such a message was delivered by the delegation led by Senator John Tower, which met with Al-Asad on 21 February, according to the radio.

Phalangist Position, Mobilization — Abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement will move Lebanon "in the direction of Syria, and this is what we reject," Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram stated in remarks broadcast by Radio Free Lebanon. In view of the Army's defeat and the current military situation, Afram said, the Phalangists may be obliged to strengthen their forces by drafting reservists and staging a military, social, and cultural "mobilization."

Jordan-Libya Relations

The Jordanian cabinet decided to sever diplomatic and political relations with Libya as of 22 February in response to the burning of the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli, Amman television reported. In a statement on the incident, reported by Amman radio, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat said representatives of Palestinian resistance factions in Libya dissociated themselves from the storming of the embassy, which was carried out by some 250 persons whom the Libyan authorities transported in buses for the occasion.

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Party Leaders Comment on Elections, Dialogue

Awami League President

BK221134 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Feb 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] Chittagong, Feb 20 — Sheikh Hasina, President of the Bangladesh Awami League [AL], on Sunday reiterated here the firm determination of her party to boycott all elections before parliamentary elections.

Addressing a number of workers meetings at Sathkania Patiya and Anowara Upazila [subdistricts] of this district, she said that the present Constitution of the country has no legal framework for holding Upazila elections. The AL chief observed that the Parliament is the only constituent body which can take decision in this regard. That is why, she said the 15-party alliance demands the parliament election first before any other election. Sheikh Hasina warned the Government of the consequences for sidetracking the Parliament in matter of vital national policies.

The AL President declared that the people have now forged greater unity to thwart any attempt of the Government to jeopardise the democracy.

Referring to the five-point demands of 15-party alliance she said that these demands reflect the hopes and aspiration of freedom-loving people of the country.

The workers meetings were also addressed by Mr. Akthtaruzzaman Chowdhury, Mr Mosharraf Hossain and Mr. Osmanul Huq.

Nationalist Party Chairman

BK221152 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Feb 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] Begum Khaleda Zia, Chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), said that a deep rooted democratic system could prevent the recurrence of military coup in our country. She held that the democratic system should be given a fair trial by holding parliament election first.

In an interview with *THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER* on Sunday at her Cantonment residence, Begum Zia, widow of late President Ziaur Rahman and now a formidable political personality, said that it was the responsibility of the Government to break the present political stalemate by accepting the demands of the opposition political parties.

Begum Zia said her party was not opposed to joining the political dialogue with the Government provided the 15-party and seven party alliances' demand for suspending the upazila elections is acceded to and Government also agrees to fulfil three other pre-conditions including open political activities and freedom of the Press.

Asked why her party was boycotting the upazila elections, Begum Zia said since this was a fundamental administrative change and has been kept out of the purview of the people's representatives they have decided to boycott the upazila elections. She noted that the holding of election without the participation of the major political parties would turn the election into a farce. She hoped that the workers and leaders of the 15 and seven-party alliances would be successful in pursuading the intending candidates to refrain from taking part in the upazila polls.

Commenting on the Constitution of the country, Begum Zia said that her party was committed to the revival of the suspended Constitution and held that the Parliament might decide about the future powers of the Parliament and the President. When her attention was drawn to a demand by Sheikh Hasina to revive the 1972 Constitution, Begum Zia said that the 72 Constitution was amended by the representatives of the people from time to time to meet the exigencies. She said that 15-party and Awami League agreed in the five-point demand that except parliament no one can change the Constitution.

Replying to a question on Awami League leader Malek Ukil's comment that Awami League and BNP differed on state principles, Begum Zia said that late President Ziaur Rahman made some additions and alterations in the Constitution which were later endorsed by the nation through a referendum. She said that Awami League or any other party differing on these principles may resolve it in the Parliament.

The BNP leader said that the establishment of true democracy in the country can ensure smooth transfer of power and can check staging of coups.

Begum Zia noted that the present Government was pursuing a policy of appeasement in the field of foreign policy. She said that the Government was not protesting the erection of barbed-wire fence and construction of observation towers. The BNP leader said that the barbed-wire fencing would affect the relationship between the two countries and would lower the prestige of the people of Bangladesh.

Asked why she had joined politics, Begum Zia said "to fulfil the unfinished task of Ziaur Rahman."

Replying to a question whether she had any meeting with Sheikh Hasina, Begum Khaleda Zia rplied in the negative.

Janadal Vice Chairman

BK221334 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Feb 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] Mr. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Vice-Chairman of Janadal, said that the Government should be more flexible about the political dialogue and in the same breath called upon the Opposition to settle their differences with the Government across the negotiating table. Mr. Chowdhury, however, said there should not be any precondition on holding of political dialogue and all should work unitedly to bring politics on the street by expediting the democratic process so that Martial Law can be withdrawn as quickly as possible.

In an exclusive interview with *BANGLADESH OBSERVER* on Wednesday at his Gulshan residence Mr. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury,leader of the Government-backed Janadal, said his party was ready to negotiate the election schedule with the opposition although he felt that the elections should be held on schedule.

Replying to a question whether the Government should go ahead with their political programmes ignoring the views of the major opposition parties Mr. Chowdhury said, "We shall not ignore the big parties. We shall try to make them realise the pragmatic condition so that politics can be brought to stree." He, however, emphatically asserted that the opposition should not think that their dictates would be acceded to.

When asked about the holding of upazila elections Mr. Mizan Chowdhury said that upazila polls is not the part of the national election. "It is the election of the local self-government and should not be tagged with national polls."

Replying to a question on associating the armed forces with the political process Mr. Chowdhury said that Janadal had not yet considered to associate the armed forces in politics through constitutional arrangement. Because, he noted, there is provision for associating armed forces with other professional groups in the development work in the four principles of the party.

Whether Janadal is a Government party, Mr. Mizan Chowdhury replied in the negative. "We have not yet formed the government, he quipped. He, however, said that his party supports the steps taken by the Government adding that General Ershad was running the country very well.

Replying to a question on when he would join the cabinet Mr. Chowdhury said he had joined the Janadal with some political programmes. He declined to elaborate his programmes and said he was confident that under the leadership of General Ershad the programmes will be fulfilled.

On the form of government Mr Chowdhury said his party had not yet decided on the system of government. He stated that the issue should be settled in the parliament

When asked if General Ershad had ignored Janadal by attending the meetings of different political groups Mr Mizan said "he neither ignored nor joined the party." He said that General Ershad shall have to qualify to join Janadal by accepting the principles of the party

He admitted that there were some problems within Janadal at this formative stage as it is the conglomerate of various political groups. The party has no council to take major decisions.He denied that the Janadal leaders were frustrated because of the delay in inducting them to the cabinet. He also denied any knowledge about the formation of political front with Janadal, Jatiya Jote, Oikya Front and Muslim League. But he is aware of the possibility of inclusion of some political leaders of those fronts and parties in the cabinet.

When asked whether he would press for declaring Sheikh Mujib as father of the nation Mr Chowdhury said this was not discussed in his party, But he stated that the national leaders would get due recognition. Replying to a question on barbedwire fencing he said that it was not a good neighbourly attitude.

Mr Mizan Chowdhury demanded that the political leaders convicted in the Martial Law courts should be given the right to appeal to the higher courts. He said that his party was in favour of harmonious relations between all the political groups.

SANGBAD Reports on Nationalist Party Meeting

BK221529 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 15 Feb 84
p 1, 8

[Excerpts] Begum Khalida Zia, acting chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP], said democracy will be restored in the country at all costs. We will continue our struggle in support of the 5-point demands and the restoration of democracy. I am with you and will remain so forever. God willing, we will secure our demands. She said this while addressing a meeting organized by the 7-party alliance at the BNP central office in Dhanmandi on Tuesday afternoon.

Begum Khalida Zia appealed for making the 1 March strike a success.

Speaking on the occasion, Shah Azizur Rahman, former prime minister and a senior BNP vice chairman, said the "concept" of subdistrict is not incorporated in the Constitution and only the elected representatives of Parliament can decide whether there should be subdistricts.

Shah Azizur said Ershad is Islamic in Mecca, nonaligned in Moscow, and submissive in India. He also talks about the transfer of power before the United States. There is no coordination between his talks.

Shah Azizur said that earlier corruption was confined to the cities and now through the nationalization it has been extended to the villages. However, Ershad has done one good thing — he has united all the major political parties, including the BNP, Awami League, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League, and National Awami Party, which was never expected before.

Reportage on Situation in Punjab, Haryana

Gandhi: Elements Exploiting Events

BK221557 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister has strongly condemned the killing of innocent people in Punjab and Haryana to whatever religion they belong. Mrs Gandhi has expressed her deep sympathies to the bereaved families. She was addressing the Congress-I parliamentary party in New Delhi today on the eve of the budget session. She devoted most of her hour-long speech to the happenings in Punjab. Expressing serious concern on the recent developments in the state, she felt that the terrorists have taken an upper hand and this has made the lives of ordinary people insecure. We cannot afford to keep quiet as this situation is being exploited by elements outside the country.

Mrs Gandhi said what is most disturbing is that religious places are being used for storing arms and sheltering the people wanted by the authorities. Referring to the various efforts by the government to reach a negotiated settlement on the Akali demands, she said the religious demands have already been agreed to. Since two states are involved in the territorial issue, the center cannot concede anything without consulting both the states.

The prime minister said the latest tripartite meeting had to be adjourned because the opposition wanted the Akali leaders to go back to Punjab to control the situation. But now they refuse to come back for the talks.

About the situation in Haryana, Mrs Gandhi said the state government has taken strong steps, though it is difficult to control the whole situation. The center is in touch with the state government. She cautioned the people not to be misled by rumors spread by interested parties. She stoutly refuted the allegation that the Congress-I was responsible for the violence.

Mrs Gandhi also referred to the decision of the Akali Dal to send some party leaders to Haryana in the wake of violent incidents there. But no such attempt was made when such happenings took place in Punjab. On the other hand, the central government has deputed ministers to both the states for an on-the-spot study of the situation. Mrs Gandhi said that she has greatest respect for all people living in India. The people of Punjab and Haryana, including Sikhs, have made great sacrifices in defending the country. She had always admired the way they had rehabilitated themselves after the partition. There is no question of supressing any community.

4 Killed 22 February

BK221559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] In Punjab, three persons were killed this evening in Lopoki village near Amritsar by some unidentified persons. Earlier, in Amritsar one person was killed in an incident of violence. Police patrolling the city has been intensified.

Curfew in the six towns has been further extended. Restrictions on taking out processions have been imposed in some towns.

Governor Calls for Harmony

BK221610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The Punjab governor, Mr B.D. Pande, has called for concerted efforts by leaders of all communities to strengthen the age-old communal harmony. He was addressing the state-level committee on communal harmony in Chandigarh this afternoon.

Mr Pande said the center is making all-out efforts to resolve the Punjab tangle within the framework of the Constitution. There is no place for violence, ill will, hatred, or communal frenzy.

Mr Pande appealed to the people of Punjab to join hands with the government to avert the recurrence of any unfortunate incident.

The governor called upon the leaders of various political parties and religious organizations to observe utmost restraint while issuing statements. He also urged the press to cooperate with the government in normalizing the situation.

The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, has expressed sorrow over the shootouts in Punjab last night in which eight persons were killed.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, said that the five Akali leaders have been advised not to visit Haryana. Sant Longowal has criticized the Haryana Government for preventing the visit of the party leaders.

The situation in Haryana is peaceful.

The chief minister has summoned an all-party meeting tomorrow.

Situation Updated

BK230335 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] In Haryana, an all-party meeting is being held today to review the situation in the state. The meeting has been called by the chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal. A delegation of 10 women members of the Rashtriya Ekta Andolan [Movement for National Unity] yesterday visited Panipat on a peace mission. Led by Mrs Aruna Asaf Ali, the delegation went round various parts of the town, the site of violent incidents last Monday. Later, addressing a meeting of local political leaders and social workers, she suggested the formation of a committee to restore peace.

In Punjab, unidentified assailants struck at four different places last night. The incidents took place at Amarkot in Amritsar District, Shyam Chowrasi in Hoshiarpur, and Sri Hargobind Pur in Gurdaspur District. About six persons were killed and several

injured in these incidents. The Punjab Government has announced a grant of 10,000 rupees each to the families of those killed by the extremists. One eligible member in each such family will also be provided with a sutiable government job. The injured will be given 2,000 rupees each.

The middle standard examinations of the Punjab School Board have been postponed indefinitely in the curfew-bound areas of Amritsar.

At a meeting in Chandigarh, editors of Chandigarh- and Jullundur-based newspapers have agreed to follow certain guidelines for maintaining communal harmony among various sections of people. They decided not to mention the names of the communities involved in clashes and also the religious places where the acts of sacrilege were committed. The prime minister has strongly condemned the killings of innocent people in the two states. She told the meeting of the Congress-I parliamentary party that we cannot allow the situation to be exploited by elements outside the country. She expressed concern that religious places are being used for storing arms and sheltering people wanted by authorities.

The Congress-I high command has sent Mr Y.B. Chavan, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, and Mr Jagannath Pahadia to help restore communal harmony in Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. Mr Chavan has been put in charge of Punjab, Dr Sharma of Haryana and Mr Pahadia of Himachal Pradesh.

United Front Appeals

BK230439 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The United Front, led by the Janata Party chief, Mr Chandra Shekhar, has urged the prime minister to take the initiative in inviting Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, to help resolve the Punjab tangle. It also requested the Sant not to stand on prestige but promptly respond to the prime minister's invitation if and when extended. The appeals were made at a meeting of the top front leaders in New Delhi yesterday after reviewing the situation in Punjab and Haryana. The front in a resolution condemned the recurring violence and disapproved the use of religious places for sheltering criminals.

'Precautionary' Curfew Imposed

BK230928 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] In Punjab, curfew has been extended in all the six towns where it was clamped a few days back as a precautionary measure. The towns are Amritsar, Jullundur, Ludhiana, Ferozepur, Atiala, and Khanna.

President Addresses Joint Session of Parliament

BK230909 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, has expressed concern over the increasing activities of communal and antinational elements and called upon all patriotic citizens to cooperate with the government in putting down divisive forces. He was addressing the joint sitting of both the houses of parliament at the beginning of the budget session today.

The president said Punjab had witnessed tragic violence against innocent persons. Some forces have sought to weaken the centuries old fraternal bonds between the communities. It is, however, heart warming that the majority of the people irrespective of the community to which they belong have refused to be misled by the sinister propaganda of hate let loose by these elements. It is imperative to restore normalcy and peace in the state. The government have always been anxious that the problems in Punjab be solved through dialogue between all concerned.

Describing the recent spread of communal violence to Haryana as a distressing development, the president hoped that peace will soon be restored in the affected areas. He said that at the recent meeting of the national integration council, there was a heartening consensus on the need for strengthening national unity and promoting the sense of Indianness. There is agreement against the use of violence and harboring the antisocial elements in religious places. The use of places of worship by criminals affects their sanctity and harms the interests of the nation apart from bringing a bad name to religion.

The president delivered his address in Hindi and the English version was read out later by the vice president, Mr Hidayatullah.

The All-India Radio parliamentary correspondent says that Giani Zail Singh arrived at the Parliament House from Rashtrapati Bhavan in the black and gold horse carriage accompanied by mounted bodyguards. He was received by the prime minister, the vice president, and the Lok Sabha speaker. The president was led to the central hall in a ceremonial process. The national anthem was played at the beginning and end of the presidential address.

Referring to Assam, the president said the state government has made strenous efforts to promote peace and stability.

He also referred to the dastardly assassination of an Indian diplomat in Britain by a gang of terrorists claiming to represent a secessionist movement in Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the need for vigilance against the internal and external forces that are trying to undermine the country's political and social stability.

On the economic situation, the president observed that there has been impressive recovery in the current year. There is considerable improvement in agriculture and industrial growth. As a result, he hoped that the rate of inflation will be brought down

in the near future. He also noted the improvement in our external payment position and said the government's decision not to make any further withdrawals of the IMF loan speaks of the success of our external adjustment policies. The president also spoke of the vigorous implementation of the 20-point program, the successful launching of the Insat-1B, the program for expansion of television services, and the success of the Antarctica expedition.

Turning to the international situation, the president said it is disturbing. Disarmament negotiations have not registered any progress. Referring to Pakistan, the president hoped it would respond positively to our proposal for our friendship, peace, and cooperation and take steps to curb the propaganda directed against India. Referring to the recent ethnic violence in Sri Lanka, the president expressed the hope that the all-party conference will lead to a lasting and satisfactory solution.

Opposition Boycott

BK230954 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Feb 84

[TEXT] Memebrs of the Lok Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party stayed away from the joint sitting of the two houses of parliament during the president's address this morning because of the happenings in Punjab and Haryana. When the Lok Sabha met separately later, memebrs of these parties walked out protesting against the continuing violence in the two states. Mr Charan Singh alleged that the government had been unable to control the violence. Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee demanded an immediate discussion of the situation.

The issue was raised in the Rajya Sabha also and some opposition members sought a discussion. The chairman, Mr Hidayatullah, told them that the matter was discussed through a call attention motion.

Zia Departs for Brunei, Comments on Elections

BK220724 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq left Islamabad this morning on a 4-day visit to Brunei to attend the independence celebrations of Brunei Darussalam. Talking to newsmen prior to his departure, the president expressed the hope that the newly independent Islamic country [words indistinct] Brunei Darussalam, through its association with ASEAN, as well as the Islamic Conference Organization, will play an important role in Southeast Asia. The president said that Pakistan desires to enhance mutually beneficial relations with Brunei Darussalam and to promote cooperation in various fields. He said he will meet Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and exchange views with him on bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

In reply to a question, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that he will abide by the political program he announced on 12 August. He said that the entire election process will be completed by March next year. The president said that there is a strong possibility that, if the entire process is not completed, at least one election will be completed by the end of this year. In reply to another question, he said the period of electioneering should not be unnecessarily prolonged. He hinted that the electioneering time will be 2 and 1/2 months.

In reply to a question on the decision to hold elections on a party or nonparty basis, the president said: What must be decided is whether there should be a Western-type democracy or an Islamic system of government. Islam has determined the eligibility and responsibilities of the popular representatives and they are expected to fulfill these responsibilities. The president said that in his 12 August announcement on the political program he clarified this to some extent and that the Ansari Commission [on future political framework] also, to a large extent, stressed this point.

The chairman of the Advisory Council, federal ombudsman, vice chief of the Army Staff, naval chief, federal ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, and senior civil and military officials saw the president off at the airport.

Reports on Activities of Indian Muslim Delegation

BK200655 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] An Indian delegation called on the chairman of the Federal Advisory Council, Khawja Mohammad Safdar, in Islamabad today. The delegation consists of parliament members Haji Ebarim Sulaiman Sait and Mr G.M. Banatwalla and the secretary of the Delhi State Muslim League, Mr Iqbal Ahmed. The delegation members commended the efforts of the Pakistan Government in connection with the Islamization of society.

The delegation also called on Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan at the Foreign Office. They exchanged views on matters of bilateral interest.

Meeting With Ziaul Haq

BK200749 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] The visiting three-member Indian delegation called on the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi this evening. They discussed with him matters concerning both India and Pakistan. The Indian delegation also called on the federal interior minister, Mr Mahmud A. Haroon. The members of the delegation were briefed about the Islamization efforts of the present government. The delegation was also told that the minorities in the country enjoy full rights and they equally share the progress in national life.

The Indian delegation's other engagements included a meeting with the chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology, Mr Justice Dr Tanzeeur Rahman.

22 February Departure

BK230429 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The Indian delegation left Lahore for New Delhi yesterday after a visit to Pakistan. Talking to the Radio Pakistan representative prior to departure, the leader of the delegation, Haji Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait, appreciated the present government's efforts toward enforcement of the Islamic system in Pakistan. He said the people of his country sincerely desire an atmosphere of good relations and mutual trust between Pakistan and India. He further said that the manner in which Pakistan is fulfilling its religious obligations in looking after Afghan refugees is praiseworthy.

NAWA-E WAQT Backs Nuclear Development Program

GF211538 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 17 Feb 84 p 3

[Editorial: "Nuclear Program — Be More Bold About It"]

[Excerpts] President General Ziaul Haq has said that we can enrich uranium and we have developed a modest nuclear capability, but as we have said earlier, it is only for peaceful purposes.

He said this on his return from Moscow at a press conference in answer to a question regarding the interview of Pakistan's internationally famous nuclear scientist, Dr Abdul Qadir Khan with *NAWA-E WAQT* a week earlier wherein he had said: "Pakistan has attained success in the field of uranium enrichment."

The echo of Dr Qadir Khan's interview has resounded far and wide and the exaggerated and malicious propaganda campaign has once again been resumed in the capitals (London, Washington, etc) of those Western countries which consider nuclear technology "forbidden fruit" for Pakistan and which have created the bugbear of an "Islamic bomb" in order to prevent the supply of equipment to Pakistan necessary for industrial uses but which, according to them, may be used by Pakistan in its nuclear program.

Due to this galvanized campaign of vicious propaganda, the cautious and modest attitude of Pakistan's ruling party is understandable and advisable especially since the big (monopolistic and capable of doing anything) powers have adopted the path of "opposition for the sake of opposition" and are dropping hints about destroying Pakistan's nuclear installations at any time. The point worth pondering over and declaring boldly and with fortitude is that the focus of all the opposition and wrath is only Pakistan's nuclear program. Why do these "benefactors" not see the nuclear programs of India, Israel, South Africa, etc? Why are they not considered a menace to world peace?

The "friendly and benevolent" country of the United States seems to be in the forefront of this campaign and it is because of the pressure it exerted that France reneged on its agreement to provide a reprocessing plant to Pakistan. Following the Soviet occupation in Afghanistan, the United States did arrange to supply some arms to Pakistan, but the threat continues that if Pakistan carries out a nuclear explosion the supply will be stopped.

Nuclear technology is an important source of energy and due to the paucity of the traditional forms of fuel such as oil, coal, etc,it is imperative for Pakistan to set up a nuclear power station. The height of injustice and prejudice is that the Canadian envoy in Pakistan admitted that although India has staged a nuclear explosion, the supply of spare parts and fuel to Pakistan for the powerplant set up with Canada's cooperation was stopped and the progress for a reprocessing plant was also suspended. The United States and other countries opposing Pakistan's nuclear program continued to cooperate with India even after its nuclear explosion and when legal impediments cropped up, the United States itself made alternate arrangements for France, West Grmany, and Italy to provide for Indian needs.

Access to nuclear technology is as much a prerogative of Pakistan as it is for any other country. However, the malicious campaign and opposition seem only directed at Pakistan because instead of insisting of their rights in a vociferous manner, the Pakistani officials give an impression of being cowed by the opposing propaganda, false accusations, and pressure and start making excuses. Our attitude has increased the audacity of the opponents of our nuclear program who continue to drop provocative hints and make mountains out of molehills and accelerate their efforts to intimidate us. Would it not be more advisable for Pakistan to insist on its right openly, to announce its nuclear capability boldly, and to impress upon those who believe in "opposition for the sake of opposition" that not only will Pakistan exercise its right, it will do what it considers fit for its defense and safety.

If we continue to behave mildly, these opponents will become more ferocious. It is better to follow the adage that "only those survive who dare" as a pivot of our policy. Our courage should make them accept facts and follow the policy they have adopted with India, Israel, and South Africa in their nuclear programs.

NEPAL

AFP: King Indicates No Changes in System

BK151625 Hong Kong AFP in English 1251 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] Katmandu, Feb 15 (AFP) — King Birendra today indicated that there would be no changes in Nepal's present government system since the majority of the people already expressed themselves in favor of the partyless Panchayat (legislature) policy in the May 1980 referendum.

Addressing a mammoth public rally in southwestern Nepal, the king said, "It is important that we realise the actual needs and aspirations of our people by finding out ways and means to fulfill them in an effective manner."

Observers saw this as an indirect hint to anti-Panchayat and political leaders favoring a multi-party system who have been speculating for the past few months that some important changes in the partyless Panchayat system were in the offing.

Political leaders' hopes for the re-establishment of a multi-party system was based on King Birendra's pledge to the U.S. press during his state visit to the United States last December to further democratize the Panchayat polity.

The king indirectly warned the top brass of the partyless Panchayat polity that the panchas (cadres of the partyless policy) should be "forever alert while discharging their responsibilities towards the country, people and the system and about how they reflect their commitment to the system as also the trust reposed on them by the people."

Political observers here have attached great importance to this indirect warning of the king to the Panchayat oppositions groups headed by S.B. Thapa, the former prime minister, who are trying to oust the Chand government.

Observers here believed that the king's speech was encouraging for Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand and his colleagues as it was a clear indication of the firm position of the present government.

The Chand government came to power after ousting Surya Bahadur Thapa through a vote of no confidence in the national legislature in last July.

The present government has been facing opposition from four fronts as it has been accused of failing to check administrative malpractices, controlling market prices and poor performances from the council of ministers.

On the top of this, recently announced new press and publication regulations have angered the press in Katmandu who are now demanding withdrawal of the new rules.

In his speech, the king also stressed the importance of public participation in the country's economic development "from the national to the village levels."

Urges 'Checks, Balances'

BK191008 Hong Kong AFP in English 0950 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Katmandu, Feb 19 (AFP) — King Birendra has called upon the Nepalese people to "consolidate" the National Panchayat (legislature) democracy by developing institutions that create a system of "checks and balance," an official radio announcement said today.

In a message to the nation on the occasion of the King Tribhuvan memorial and national day celebration, the king noted that "Nepal has been a country that has put her polity to the choice of the people." "Acting against the will of the people for the sake of blind imitation cannot help the cause of democracy," he added.

Meanwhile, a huge rally led by Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand marched around Katmandu raising slogans like "Long live Panchayat democracy," "Long live King Birendra," "The country and the crown are dearer to us then our lives."

Indian Irrigation Ministry Official Arrives

BK200940 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] A high-level Indian delegation led by Mr R.C. Padhye, secretary, Irrigation Ministry, arrived in Katmandu today for talks on development of water resources of Nepal for mutual benefit. The talks begin tomorrow. The last round of talks was held in April last year.

Prince, Princess Depart for Brunei Celebrations

BK211627 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Their Royal Highnesses Prince Dhirendra Bir Bikram Shah and Princess Prekhya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah left Katmandu today for Brunei to represent their majesties the king and queen at the first independence day celebrations of that country at the invitation of Sultan Hasan Al Bolkiah. Their royal highnesses are scheduled to return home on 26 February.

SRI LANKA

Prime Minister Premadasa Stresses Unity

BK181119 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Prime Minister R. Premadasa has reiterated that the government will not agree to any proposal or meeting or consider any decision to divide the country. He was speaking at a meeting held at the (Sucharita) Hall in Colombo yesterday.

Referring to the all-party conference, the prime minister said that even if a general consensus was reached on whatever issue, it would not be implemented against the wishes of the people. The

government would try to maintain a unitary state. He furthersaid that when a country was engaged in internal turmoil and disagreement arose, external forces might pose a threat to us. Sri Lanka is situated in a strategic location. There are instances where powerful forces have captured other countries which are engulfed in troubles. Therefore, Mr Premadasa emphasized that we should be mindful about the way we live.

AFP: SLFP Not To Return to Roundtable Talks

BK190938 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 19 Feb 84

[By Neville De Silva]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Feb 19 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's main opposition party has announced it will not return to roundtable talks due to resume Tuesday which are striving to resolve the country's ethnic problems.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), led by former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike, also boycotted the first round of talks earlier this month. It accused the minority Tamils' main party of seeking southern Indian intervention in Sri Lanka's internal affairs and of criticising the Buddhist clergy. Many of the Tamils originate from southern India. The SLFP also said that the government tried to impose preconceived solutions on the conference, a charge which President Junius Jayewardene dismissed. The party made its decision at a Central Committee meeting yesterday.

The conference had brought together most of Sri Lanka's political parties and religious and ethnic organisations to find a solution to the racial strife, centering on the Tamils' problems.

A senior SLFP source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the Central Committee agreed no real purpose would be served by the party's further participation in the talks.

The SLFP also decided yesterday to re-admit its former deputy leader and other party members who broke away two years ago. Deputy leader Maithripala Senanayake and Mrs Bandaranaike's son Anura left over policy and organisational differences, although Mr Bandaranaike later returned to the party and is now leader of the opposition in parliament.

Last month, several senior party figures including Mrs Bandaranaike's daughter Chandrika and film star son-in-law Vijaya Kumaranatunge split to form the left-leaning Sri Lanka People's Party (SLMP), claiming that the leader had abandoned the SLFP's socialist policies.

The *LANKA GUARDIAN* magazine reported that substantial numbers of young SLFP supporters were now backing the SLMP.

Parties Submit Papers to All-Party Conference

BK221137 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] At the all-party conference, which was reconvened yesterday, working papers were submitted on behalf of two political parties and two organizations. They are the Supreme Council of the Mahasangha, the Christian organization, the United National Party [UNP], and the Ceylon Workers Congress.

The working paper on behalf of the Supreme Council of the Mahasangha [community of Buddhist monks] was submitted by Reverend Dr (Waltala Rahulla) and on behalf of the Christian organization by Right Reverend Dr (Oswald Gomez).

The working paper of the UNP was submitted by the minister Lalith Athulathmudali and on behalf of the Ceylon Workers Congress political wing by Minister S. Thondaman.

The minister of trade and shipping, Lalith Athulathmudali, who briefed the media after the conference, said that the conference reconvened in committee and the discussions will be continued this evening. He said more working papers were expected to be submitted to the conference today. He added that once the working papers were submitted, the delegates would start making their observations on the proposals.

All-Party Consensus Reached on Stateless People

BK220459 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a consensus has emerged at an all-party conference in favor of granting citizenship to all stateless people of Indian origin. All the 16 delegations, who took part in the deliberations, told President Jayewardene that the problem of stateless people should be solved immediately.

Soviet Cosmonaut Arrives on 10-Day Visit

BK220954 Hong Kong AFP in English 1726 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Colombo, Feb 20 (AFP) — Soviet cosmonaut Lt. Col. Vladimir Lyakhov, vice-president of the Soviet Sri Lanka friendship society and Albert Kobylin, general secretary of the society, arrived here today for a ten-day visit. Mr Lyakhov, who is expected to call on President Junius Jayewardene later this week, is here for the 27th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and the Soviet Union, reports reaching here said.

U.S., UK Naval Presence in Gulf Viewed

Velayati: Act of Adventurism

LD231136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Following reports on the movement of U.S. warships and those of certain Western powers in the Persian Gulf region and on imperialism's latest threats with regard to taking military action in this region, Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati declared:

The Islamic Republic of Iran's military operations on the battlefronts are concentrated against the Iraqi regime and we will continue these operations decisively until final victory. However, the Iraqi regime considers its only path for salvation to be to escalate the war to the entire region and to internationalize it in order to obtain intervention by the other powers. Mr Velayati added: Recent reactions in the Persian Gulf region also indicate that global arrogance, headed by the United States, is siding with the Saddam regime in kindling fire in the Persian Gulf and is preparing the ground with its threats. The presence of its warships in the Persian Gulf region, the safeguarding of the security and tranquillity of which is absolutely the responsibility of the countries of the region, is an act of adventurism.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, insisting on achieving final victory and decisively defeating the regime ruling Iraq, emphasizes that it will safeguard the security of the Strait of Hormuz and it does not want to see the imposed war causing further losses to the region and to other countries. Therefore, at this time of destiny, we hereby issue a warning that bringing international pressure to bear on Iraq and ending the assistance from global arrogance are absolutely necessary for preventing the insane actions of the Saddamist regime, which would otherwise undoubtedly produce extensive and unpredictable effects on the world and the region, and for the continuation of tranquillity in the region and for guaranteeing the security of the vital Persian Gulf waterway. Otherwise, any insane action by the Iraqi regime or any act of adventurism by the United States or any other power will endanger the interests of the West in the region.

Arabic Commentary

GF221919 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The time has come when the Muslim is capable of standing up and challenging the East and the West and confronting — with a big heart — a huge army, the first in Baghdad and the last in Washington, London, and Paris.

The heroes found that their day has come. They found Washington pushing its fleets nearer to the Islamic coasts. They found Thatcher standing shamelessly before the British House of Commons to answer the inquiries of representatives and saying that she has ordered the British naval force to be under Washington's order in defending the Western interests in the Gulf waters. They found the whole arrogance stretching its arm to our Islamic region in order to defend a wicked aggressor. They found all this and they found in one bullet the way to challenge.

The annals of time should record a decisive word for every oppressor and tyrant. It is time for another Islamic battle to be recorded in history.

Further Report

GF231128 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Following the news about the victories of Muslim fighters on the battlefields of the war that has been imposed by the ruling regime in Iraq on the Islamic Revolution, U.S. Defense Department officials, who have become frightened over the successive victories the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are achieving and the inevitable fall of the Saddam regime, have affirmed that aircraft carrier *Midway*, which is cruising near the Persian Gulf waters, has begun patrolling to protect what they called U.S. interests.

The state-run London radio has also announced that the British Government will send two naval ships to the Persian Gulf region to back the U.S. aircraft carrier which is patrolling the region to assist the Ba'thist regime in Iraq in the war it has imposed on the Islamic Revolution.

The British Government's decision was made after it has become very clear that inevitable collapse of the Saddam regime and the establishment of an Islamic state in Iraq are near.

Offensive Launched in Iraq's Basra Province

LD230805 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0743 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The nation of Islam, the revolutionary and martyr nurturing nation of Iran, the courageous and powerful combatants of Islam comprised of the warriors of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the selfless guardsmen, and the personnel of the mobilization force of the Islamic Revolution, in the continuation of the victorious operations of Val-Fajr VI, began the special Kheybar operations, code named "Ya Rasulollah," along several axes in Iraq's Basra and Al-'Amarah Provinces at 2030 last night. Up to now, they have gained considerable victories for the nation of Islam. Intensive fighting between our blasphemy-fighting combatants and the infidel forces of Saddam continues all along the operational axes. Our selfless and committed forces, supported by the blessings of God and the prayers of the imam of the nation and of the nation of Islam continue to advance toward the present objectives. News and reports of the victories gained will be brought to the attention of the Muslim and revolutionary nation in later communiques.

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 1

GF230828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0744 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Communique No 1 issued by Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for joint operations of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God Almighty who has given honor and splendid respect to the great Islamic nation and bestowed his blessing on the heroic, steadfast combatants of Islam. Praise be to the blasphemy-fighting brave men who, with their faith in God Almighty and under the guidance of the imam of the ages and with the leadership of the highly-placed leader of the Islamic nation, Imam Khomeyni, supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, by launching this attack and by creating historical epics, are opening the way to God, and by shouting the power-giving slogans of God are defeating and disgracing their blasphemous enemy.

Islamic nation, martyr-nurturing revolutionary nation of Iran: The powerful heroic Islamic combatants, the self-sacrificing soldiers, and the mobilized guards of the Islamic Revolution in continuing the victorious Val-Fajr VI operations, last night at 2030 hours launched the Khybar special operation with the codename "Ya Rasulollah" in several sectors in the Iraqi Provinces of Basra and Al-'Amarah and have so far won considerable victories for the sake of the Islamic nation. Heavy fighting by our blasphemy fighters against the blasphemous forces of Saddam is continuing in the axis of the operation and our brave and faithful fighters, with the support of God's blessings and the prayers of the imam of the nationand the Islamic nation, are advancing toward their predetermined goals. News and reports received about the victories will be broadcast in future communiques.

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 2

LD230950 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0910 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Communique No 2 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarter, center for joint operations of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "We have verily won you a manifest victory." [Koranic verse]

God's blessing and assistance are showering the forces of Islam and the sincerity and faith of the heroic forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the self-sacrificing members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and the devoted and heroic basij members are attracting God's secret assistance. With their self-sacrifice, the fighters of Islam are opening the way to Karbala'.

Islamic nation, Muslim Iranian nation: Following the victorious Val-Fajr VI operations, the fighters of Islam at 2100 hours last night started the special Khybar operations with the holy codename "Ya Rasulollah" in a few axes in Iraq's Al-Amarah' and Basra Provinces. After crossing sandy terrain, they heroically crossed many obstacles which had been erected by the feeble enemy in the operational zone, including vast minefields, booby-traps, and wide water canals and advanced many kilometers into Al-'Amarah and Basra. Having left behind a number of Iraqi villages, including (Al-Hamd), (Al-Hurrah), (?Al-Bayden), Al-Madinah, (Al-Kaththarah), Baraj, and As-Salib, they are advancing toward the Tigris River.

Forward, O brave and heroic forces of Islam, O heralds of monotheism, O God-seeking forces. God's hand, the prayers of the imam and the Islamic nation are with you. If you assist God, He will assist you and will make your steps firm. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarter, center for the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 3

LD231011 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0939 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Communique No 3 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for joint operations of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We have truly won you a great victory. [quotation from Koran] Islamic nation, heroic and fighting Iranian nation: At this moment, your brave sons are bathing themselves in both the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers. Hezbollahi nation, the heroic and self-sacrificing fighters of Islam, following their victorious Kheybar operations, have advanced tens of kilometers inside Iraqi territory and, in addition to the seven Iraqi villages mentioned in previous communiques, they have also left behind (Al-Jawhari), (Al-Wadiyah), (Al-Dijlah), (As-Safi), (Al-Basra), (Bani Qadi), (Umm Jadid), and (Al-Jazirah) villages and have reached the Tigris and are bathing themselves in it.

The powerful forces of Islam, sincere followers of Husayn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him, advancing through Iraq's Basra Province and liberating a number of villages in that province, have reached both the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers and have bathed themselves in the waters of those rivers which are scented with the pure beings of the Lord of the Martyrs, Husayn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him, the Moon of Bani-Hashim and their faithful followers. The fighters of Islam have refreshed their entire being.

The victorious battle of our blasphemy-fighting warriors against the wretched enemy continues, with the followers of Imam Husayn having superiority.

If you help God, He will help you and will make your steps firm. [quotation from Koran]

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 4

LD231058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1022 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Communique No 4 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for joint operations of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We have granted you a decisive victory. [Koranic verse]

Blessed be your remarkable victories O openers of the gates to the liberation of the meek and O chanters of the song of the victory of the deprived gained by the Islamic nation thanks to the unending divine blessings! May your steps be formed for standing so tumultuously and steadfastly against the Pharoah of the era!

Zealous Islamic combatants and zealous men of the combat arena continuing the victorious Khybar operations which have so far resulted in liberating vast areas of Iraqi soil have succeeded in crossing the Tigris River and have cut in several points the important strategic Baghdad-Basra highway which passes through the city of Al-'Amarah and have been deployed on this highway.

With the cutting of this highway, which is one of the extremely important supply and communications and military highways of Iraq, the links between northern and southern Iraq have been cut and following that the links between the III Corps of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist army in the south and the IV Corps of the enemy forces in northern Iraq have been cut.

The battle against the agents of global blasphemy continues with the complete superiority of the callers for monotheism and those marching along the path of righteousness.

If you support God, He will grant you victory and render your feet firm. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operational center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Iraqi Plane Downed in Khybar Operations Area

LD230921 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0903 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention to a report we have just received: At 1015 this morning, a Ba'thist-Zionist enemy aircraft that intended to bomb the Islamic troops' positions in the region of the victorious Khybar operations in an effort to avenge the enemy's repeated defeats during these operations became the target of and was shot down by the Islamic combatants' air defense units and the fast-flying pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

IRNA: Forces Penetrate 40 Km Into Iraq

LD231019 Tehran IRNA in English 0934 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Khatim-ol-Anbiya' HQ. Feb. 23 IRNA — The Islamic combatants of Iran have advanced 40 kms inside Iraqi territory and have liberated a vast area in the operational region in south of Iraq.

The Khybar offensive launched last night covers a region 90 kms wide in the border areas of Al-'Amarah and Basra Provinces.

The unique coordination of the Islamic army has resulted in the smashing of the enemy frontlines and for the first time in the history of the Iraqi imposed war, now in its 40th month, the Iranian forces have penetrated 40 kms inside Iraq and now impose their full control over the liberated regions.

'Liberated' Villages Welcome Combatants

LD231039 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 23 Feb 84

["Iraqi Villagers Welcome Islamic Combatants" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Khatim ol-Anbiya' HQ., Feb. 23, IRNA — The Islamic combatants of Iran liberated a number of villages north of Basra by traversing the (Hour-ul-Hoveizeh) marsh area, Thursday morning.

Reports indicate that the inhabitants of the liberated Islamic combatants and congratulated each other on their liberation. [sentence as received] The villagers celebrated this victory of the Islamic combatants by chanting slogans in condemnation of the Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn and in support of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These villagers aided the Islamic forces in their operations. The names and positions of the villages will be listed later.

Iraqi 'Marsh' Tribesmen Urged To Join Iranians

LD231318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1147 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Unscheduled statement by unidentified speaker in colloquial Iraqi Arabic]

[Text] My brothers, the people of the marshes, the tribesmen of the marsh: Just hear a word from me. None of you should remain uninterested and you all should hear me. Let the tribes of Basra in their entirety hear me. Islamic victory has come to you. Blessings have come to you and it is now up to you to make up your minds to welcome your brothers, the sons of Islam, particularly you O people of the marshes.

Brothers, these people are your brothers and are defending you against Saddam and his gang. And let the tribesmen of Basra hear me: You (Al-'Idan), (Al-Kan'an), (Al-Batarnah), (Al-'Atab), (Bani Asad), Jamil, 'Ibadah, (Al-Quswan), Al-'Ulwan,

Badran, (Al-Halal), Al-'Amarah [place name indistinct]. Brothers, your brothers are Muslim conquerors. They want you to live in freedom and breathe the air of Islam and not the air of 'Aflaq and his gang whose origin I do not know.

Brothers, you who live on the marshes, wherever you are— on (Hawr al-'Ubayd), (Hawr Salih) marshes, north and south of the marshes, the middle of the marshes, wherever you are, open the path for your brothers who have come to you to liberate you from the gang of this infidel, to save you from 'Aflaq and the Zionists and their gang.

Brothers, your Muslim brother is closer to you than infidel Saddam who slew your sons. You my brothers know how many young people you have lost to save Saddam and all his retinue. Remember your martyrs who have fallen thanks to this infidel and his malignant gang.

Brothers, today you must wreak vengeance on this infidel and his gang. You should become the supporters of Islam's solidarity, the soldiers of Islam are conquering, liberating you from the gang of Saddam, the infidel. They will save you from abjection and darkness and then you will live with freedom and breathe the air of freedom.

Your brothers, as you may well know, the population of Al-'Amarah, praise be to God, who were reached by the forces of Islam, welcomed them and joined them against Saddam and his gang. And your brothers in the villages in Basra liberated by Islam's forces, they also welcomed them and joined them against Saddam and the infidel.

You my brothers, the people of the marshes, come and welcome them and open the way for them and let them teach Saddam and his gang a lesson and overthrow this dark era whereby you would lift this nightmare from your heads and wipe out oppression against you and dispatch Saddam to hell. And, brothers, you know what your slogan should be: "God is great, victory to Islam, and death to Saddam."

Arabic Address to People of Southern Iraq

GF231120 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0940 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] O people of Basra, Al-'Amarah, 'Ali al-Gharbi, 'Ali ash-Sharqi, and Al-Kumayt; O peasants and laborers; O victims of the sons of the wretched and oppressed in the south: The victorious Islamic forces are approaching you, in the hope of ending the night of your sufferings and to put an end to the series of calamities which have afflicted you, humiliated you, and prevented you from being at peace and in harmony during the years which the despotic Ba'thists have ruled, the very same Ba'thists who have destroyed everything precious on the land of Iraq.

O oppressed behind bars, the true dawn has come to you and the battalions of liberation are advancing toward you. Join them and break the chains with which the infidel Ba'thists have bound you. Rise up and take revenge on those who have tormented and tortured you. Practice retribution on those who wronged you and killed your clergymen and men and plundered your wealth. You are now facing the historical test. Deal blows to the the body of the helpless regime. Unite around God's love for the sake of a prosperous, bright future under the banner of Islam, the great savior.

O kinsmen, brothers, and all honorable men in the land of Mesopotamia, the beaten Saddam will inevitably perish. Do not be deceived by the false propaganda and deceptive rumors. The next few days will prove the falsehood of what they claim. Join the strugglers and the ranks of God's supporters against the agents of arrogance and the henchmen of the regime who are executioners and killers.

Majlis Official Sees Val-Fajr VI as Final Battle

LD231021 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23 IRNA — Majlis vice-speaker Mohammad Yazdi referring to the freshly launched Keybar offensive and the remarkable advance of the Islamic combatants in the Val Fajr-5 and 6 operations said that God willing, this stage of the military operation would be the last and determining battle of the war.

Yazdi, who was speaking in the Majlis Thursday morning expressed his gratitude for the victories of the Islamic combatants.

Commenting on U.S. President Reagan's recent statements concerning the power and ability of the U.S. Navy Yazdi said that this was aimed at covering up the victories of the Islamic combatants.

"We wonder," Yazdi added, "how the United States with all the defeats it has suffered in the world insists in showing off its (?technological) power, despite the debacle in Lebanon."

Yazdi said the U.S. was obliged to withdraw its forces from Lebanon and its allies, the interventionist forces, were also leaving. Therefore, he added, talking of its readiness was an American weak point.

A glance at the past days of the revolution, he concluded, made it clear that the Iranian nation had made its decision for implementing Islam in the nation's life and that would never let any foreign power interfere in its affairs.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,644

LD221817 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,644 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the last 24 hours, the powerful and victorious Islamic combatants have fired on the enemy's positions, supply

routes, and mobile units on the northwestern and western fronts, inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces.

While firing bravely and vigilantly in their defense, the Islamic combatants guarded their defensive positions and fortifications and further consolidated their positions and lines of defense; by dispaching patrol groups in the sighted areas they foiled and suppressed enemy movements and activities and dealt effective blows to the Saddamist forces. On every front, a number of Iraqi servicemen were killed or wounded, and one ammunition dump was set on fire in the Panjwin area, and some of the Iraqi forces' defense positions and logistic points on other fronts were also destroyed. On these fronts, fire was more intense in the Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar regions.

Exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued sporadically between the heroes of Islam and the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries on the country's southern fronts. The victors of Islam, silencing enemy fire, disrupted the movements and construction and supply operations of the Saddamist forces and destroyed a number of their heavy and light weapon emplacements, together with several of their crews.

During a series of exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the powerful Islamic combatants based at these fronts returned fire on the enemy's weapon emplacements and defense positions, halted their fire, and killed or wounded at least 40 Saddamists. They also destroyed 120-mm mortars, 1 supply bridge, and 11 trenches and foxholes of the enemy.

Operations Center Issues Communique No 4

LD221729 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Communique No 4 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In continuation of the Val-Farj VI operations, which started last night under the sacred codename "Ya Zahra" on the two axes of Dehloran and Chazabeh, the combatants of Islam — in addition to liberating more than 100 square km of the Islamic homeland and part of Iraqi territory and capturing the important supply route of Tib-Badrah in Iraq and two heights overlooking the city of 'Ali al-Gharbi in Iraq — have managed to kill a large group of Iraqi forces, including several enemy commanders, and smash and destroy the 77th Brigade of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi forces. Dozens of tanks and personnel carriers and a large number of enemy vehicles have also been destroyed by the fire of the blasphemy-fighters of Islam.

The forces of Islam have presently taken up positions on the Shilat-Dehloran axis, 17 km from the Al-'Amarah-Baghdad road, which is the Iraqi communications route linking north and south and are consolidating their positions.

By achieving the objectives of this phase of the operations on the Chazabah axis, our combatants are consolidating and reinforcing their positions.

The victorious battle of the powerful combatants of Islam with the help of the Almighty will continue with full power and force until the achievement of the predetermined objectives.

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' — may God's peace and benediction be upon him and his scion — the joint operations center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRNA Describes Northern Val-Fajr VI Theater

GF221648 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Khatim-ol Anbiya' HQ., Feb. 22, IRNA — The northern sector of the Val-Fajr 6 theatre, where the new offensive started late Tuesday night, reaches the south west of Dehloran, in Ilam Province within the land strip between Meymeh and (Seh-Gelal) Rivers.

In this sector, the Muslim combatants are facing the Iraqi town of 'Ali al-Gharbi which is also located in the southwest of Dehloran and its direct distance from the international Iran-Iraq border line is about 27 kilometers, and 35 kilometers from the strip between Meymeh and (Seh-Gelal) Rivers.

The Muslim combatants took the Iraqi enemy by surprise with their lightning attack last night having surmounted many natural obstacles.

The positions of combatants of Islam now command the Iraqi town of Tib, 2.5 kilometers inside Iraqi territory surrounded by a mountanous area stretching to the west of Meymeh River.

At the moment the enemy is completely frustrated and the Muslim combatants are bravely closing in on them from four operational axes. These axes comprise the Tahrir al-Quds theatre in the Darbandi-Khan region. the Val-Fajr 5 operational theatre in Chenguleh, the battle scene in the strip between Meymeh and Seh-Gelal Rivers and finally the southern axis of the Val-Fajr 6 offensive in Tangeh-e Chazabeh.

Commentary on Recent Operations, Hormuz Closure

GF230900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0450 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Val-Fajr VI, Another Blow to Saddam's Weak Body]

[Excerpts] Following the successful Jerusalem liberation and Val-Fajr V operations, the brave soldiers of the Islamic army and the mobilized guards, determined and strong because of the past two successful operations, started a new large-scale operation. The Val-Fajr VI operations, launched under the holy codename "Ya Zahra" in two operational fronts some 100 km apart between Dehloran in the western part of the country to Bostan in the southern part of the Islamic country, continues with the advance of the Islamic forces.

According to the latest news received from the operational center, by the morning of Wednesday, 22 February, the Islamic

combatants had liberated tens of kilometers of the territory of our Islamic homeland in the Chazabeh region which for 3 years had been under the occupation of the aggressors, in addition to liberating important strategic heights deep in the enemy's territory.

The new and forceful operations of the Islamic forces were started at a time when the weak and paralyzed Iraqi regime had been receiving in the past few months all possible aid, including a flood of military hardware and huge financial support as well as psychological, propaganda, and political support from its Eastern and Western supporters. This aid lead it to falsely assume that it could force the Islamic combatants to give up the war without first achieving victory.

Our combatants, as they have already proved, can guarantee the security of the Strait of Hormuz and will not allow any other power to dominate the region. Our combatants have stressed on several occasions that as long as our important oil outlets in the region, like the Khark oil terminal, are not threatened, the security of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz will be safeguarded by them. It is obvious that if the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran are in any way harmed by the Saddamist mercenaries or the powers supporting them, then our combatants will not hold themselves responsible for maintaining security in this vital strait and will use all their power to take steps to close the Strait of Hormuz.

Official Says Iraq Hints at Chemical Weapons Use

GF221605 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA — Following the dramatic victories of the Islamic forces in operation Val-Fajr 6 and the feeling of utter despair of a portion of the Iraqi forces, there are strong indications that the regime in Baghdad will resort to chemical weapons as in the past.

A military official told IRNA today that the Iraqi regime had used such weapons since last summer in operation Val-Fajr 2, despite the condemnation of the international organisations and the world as a whole against the use of chemical weapons.

The official added that the Iraqi regime had also hinted that it would carry out this inhuman action again and would use chemical weapons against Iran. In a radio broadcast, the Iraqi regime has said it will use drugs that will destroy man, he said.

The military official said while the Islamic Republic strongly condemns use of such weapons, it would nevertheless continue the battle only in the warfronts until certain victory.

Musavi Comments on Val-Fajr VI, Cabinet Meeting

GF221633 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA — In the ongoing sixth stage of the Val-Fajr offensive launched late Tuesday night, the Islamic combatants have achieved their pre-determined goals and are now in control of their positions, said Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi here today.

The prime minister who was speaking after the Cabinet ministers session, further commented on the recent threats of the Iraqi ruler to the effect that since Iran has been mobilising its forces, Iraq would reconsider bombarding several Iranian cities. We announce it here that if we receive any blow, we will deal a more serious and shattering blow on the decadent (Iraqi) regime and will give a crushing response to the criminal, he said.

He further added that during the meeting Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati presented a report on his participation in the United Nations Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. He said that the documents on usage of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime against Iranian people, which were presented to the conference were found highly useful.

Furthermore the foreign minister presented a report on the Lebanese city of Ba'labakk following the martyrdom of the Friday prayers leader of the city of Jibshit, southern Lebanon, Shaykh Raghib Harb. The situation, he added, showed the (?uncompromising) nature of the Muslims of Lebanon because they are after establishment of an Islamic system of government and would not be satisfied with anything less. The prime minister emphasised that the revolutionary people of Lebanon have set their objective which were very encouraging.

Another issue raised during the session was the appointment of a minister for the newly established Jihad Ministry. The programme of the ministry was discussed in the meeting, he said. The policy of the government has been that this revolutionary foundation should preserve its nature and continue to be at the service of the deprived. All other ministries, he added, would cooperate so that this establishment would fulfill its duties.

Prime Minister Musavi also said that the minister of justice, Mohammad Asghari, who has returned from a visit to warfronts has described the morale of the Islamic combatants as extremely high.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Commerce, Hasan Ja'fari- Abedi reported on his recent trip to Syria and expansion of mutual relations and counclusion of mutual trade and economic agreements. Furthermore the commerce minister reported on high morale of the Iranian ambassador to Damascus, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi. He is the best example of a representative of the Islamic Revolution, Musavi said. An assassination attempt was made against the life of Mohtashemi in Damascus last week.

Joint Staff Chief Promises Retaliatory Action

GF221701 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA — If the Baghdad regime chooses to embark on a new adventurism, the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to respond appropriately and take a retaliatory action, said General Qasemali Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff.

Zahirnezhad's statement follows recent claims by the Iraqi ruler, Saddam Husayn concerning bombardment of the Iraqi township of Shahabi by Islamic Republic forces.

Zahirnezhad said in an interview that Saddam fabricated such claims in a bid to distract the Iraqi public from the general weakness of the Iraqi Army.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran would continue to observe its previously announced principles and fight Saddam in battle-fronts, but, he added, the Muslim combatants would undoubtedly give Saddam a crushing response, should he opt for adventurism.

The Joint Staff commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran said the Muslim forces tolerated 40 months of Iraqi raids against the residential areas of their homeland which martyred or wounded thousands of Muslims, and this fact, he said, has been attested even by the imperialistic mass media as well as the international circles.

He reiterated that in case the Baghdad regime intended to use its unfounded claims as a pretext to commit more crimes against Iranian towns and residential zones, then it ought to expect a severe response from the Muslim forces.

Iraqi Opposition Group Issues Communique

LD221449 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1403 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Unscheduled announcement — communique from Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O Iraqi nation, O oppressed Iraqi nation: The forces of the Islamic Revolution have begun their battle of destiny against the Zionist regime ruling our Islamic homeland. This battle of destiny is taking place on a front tens of kilometers long and, according to reports which have reached us, is continuing fiercely. The soldiers of the Islamic army are fighting and moving forward step by step, trench by trench, and village by village. We announce with the greatest pleasure that the military forces of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, too, have joined the battle and are fighting the forces of the Zionist regime and are advancing in order to liberate our country. And just as you may well know, the outcome of this battle of destiny begun by Islam's forces is terminating a black era which our oppressed nation passed through during the shameful rule of Saddam's Zionist regime.

We draw your attention O fighting nation and the combatant and military forces of the Islamic revolution of Iraq to the following points:

1. The military forces of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq must continue their battle shoulder to shoulder with their comrades in arms, sharing the same trenches with the Corps and Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic! They should encircle the army of blasphemy and should use all their capabilities and might in order to be ready for the final confrontation with the criminal and subservient Saddam regime! And it is up to Islam's combatants and soldiers to give safe conduct to all Iraqi officers and soldiers so that they will surrender to and join the ranks of the Islamic forces!

2. Once again, we warn and call on Iraq's military, para military, and security forces in a brotherly manner to return to the embrace of the Iraqi nation and point their weapons at the enemies of Islam, to refrain from any cooperation whatsoever with Saddam, and to join the ranks of the people, for otherwise tomorrow, when the Iraqi nation breaks the shackles and retrieves its independence and sets up a government to its liking, it is possible that there might not be a way for their return and it might be too late by then and they should know that the Iraqi nation will not forgive those people who helped Saddam to the very last moment!

3. The entire Iraqi people, whether Arabs, Turkomen, Kurds, Sunnis or Shi'ites, should join hands and close their ranks and they should know that the divine promise is near and Saddam will soon fall! Our wakeful nation should manifest the depth of the spiritual value of Iraq's Islamic revolution and, by setting up local and revolutionary cells, should prepare themselves for future administration of the country.

4. We propose that tonight all Iraqi families should hold prayer meetings in their homes for the victory of Islam and the destruction of Saddam's Zionist regime so that, God willing, with divine help Saddam might be toppled and our Islamic homeland might enjoy the blessings of freedom, independence, happiness, and bliss in this world and in the hereafter.

There no victory except through God, the high and the Almighty. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq

Iraqis in Iran To Report to Mobilization Centers

LD221335 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 22, IRNA — Islamic movements of Iraq comprising Islamic Ad-Da'wah Party, Iraqi mujahedin and other Muslim groups fighting against the tyranny of Ba'thist rulers of the country in a joint statement called all Iraqi immigrants residing in Iran to report to mobilisation centers of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) for being dispatched to the war fronts of truth against falsehood. A part of the statement said that in the light of current developments inside Iraq, and stepping up of support by world oppressors for (Iraqi ruler) Saddam, it is up to the Iraqi Muslim masses to intensity their struggle for ridding the country and people of the forces of darkness who were unleashing a reign of terror throughout their homeland, and establish a divine Islamic rule inspired by guidelines of Imam Khomeyni.

Iraq-Turkey Oil Pipeline 'Sabotaged'

GF221124 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] The crude oil pipeline carrying oil from Iraq's Kirkuk region to the Yumurtalik Port in southern Turkey has been sabotaged in the vicinity of Seker Dere in Adana Province.

HURRIYET, which is published in Turkey, confirmed this report. The Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline has been sabotaged a number of times by the Iraqi revolutionary Muslims. An earlier operation against the pipeline took place on 18 June 1983.

KDP Leaders Killed in Kordestan, Azarbayjan

LD221315 Tehran IRNA in English 0953 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] 'Urumiyeh, Feb. 21, IRNA — Nearly 20 villages were purged of counter-revolutionary elements in an operation in Kordestan and West Azarbayjan provinces and several leaders of the outlawed Kurdish Democratic Party were killed.

The operation which began on Saturday, was carried out in the Takab-Divandareh-Saqqez triangle killing 48 KDP elements including one of its leaders, Iraj Buzarjomehri, Hamzeh Qassem and Yahya Rahmani. Eighteen other counterrevolutionaries were taken captive.

The liberated villages included Yurqul, Bash-Balagh, Parcham, Arehno, Ziviyeh, Oliyar, Darbe Hamadan, Dartu, Ayaq-Chin, Khoshqeshlaw and Kuros .

A number of the captives told IRNA reporter that the outlawed KDP had created severe restraints for their deviated armed members. They said they learned after their captivity that all the propaganda spread by the KDP against the Islamic republic were baseless.

They also said the KDP received backing from the Iraqi regime and secured through force and extortion some of its other needs from the deprived people of the region.